

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the Official Action of December 19, 2003, relating to the above-identified application.

Claim 22 has been amended in line 12 to specify that in the method of calculating an infinite distance corresponding point, each infinite corresponding point is calculated corresponding to each position on the first vertical line shown on the first image on the basis of the deviation of the position of the second vertical line.

The rejection of Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by US Patent 5,915,033 to *Tanigawa* is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to an apparatus and method for stereo matching and the method of calculating an infinite distance corresponding point. As is known in the stereo processing art, there is obtained a pair of photographed images with the stereo camera system and generally the distance to an object is calculated as is explained in the application, beginning on page 1. The application explains about the calculation of parallax and points out that an important feature of the present invention is the presence of the address generator which sets a search range for a stereo matching and instructs to read out from the memory a part of the second image data which is within the search range and the first image data within the reference pixel region. Thus, the address generator corrects a location of the search range for the reference pixel region based on the amount of deviation of an infinite distance to a corresponding point with respect to a horizontal position of the reference pixel region. This is pointed out on the bottom of page 5 of the application.

App. No. 09/665,952
Amend. dated March 19, 2004
Resp. to Office Action dated Dec. 19, 2003

Applicants point out that this feature of the present invention is not shown in the cited *Tanigawa* reference, although the said reference discloses a bias to the actual parallax and the matching and shifting of the image area by the bias. However, the subject matter as a whole which is defined by the claims in this application is not anticipated by the *Tanigawa* patent.

The Official Action attempts to correlate the elements of the present claims with the disclosure in the '033 patent of *Tanigawa*. However, the *Tanigawa* patent does not describe the invention as set forth in Claims 1-23 because it is lacking in the feature of the address generator correcting a location of the search range for the referenced pixel region based on the amount of deviation of an infinite distance corresponding point with respect to a horizontal position of the referenced pixel region.

Applicants submit that the address generator and setting forth the details of the bias is not disclosed in the cited reference. Consequently, applicants respectfully submit that the Official Action fails to provide sufficient reasons for rejecting the claims in the present application.

Favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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